

Sensitivity keynotes 'Fifth of July'

Performances of the Oakland University Center for the Arts production of "Fifth of July" continue through Sunday on the Oakland University campus in Rochester Hills. For ticket information, call the box office at 370-3013.

Lanford Wilson's moving drama, "Fifth of July," mixes outrageous humor with the deepest of life's ironies. More than the sum of its eight "certifiable" characters, the play is a masterpiece of plot and metaphor — hilarious, racy, absurd and passionately human.

Although the pace lags at moments in the Oakland University Center for the Arts production, director Blair Vaughn Anderson records with sensitivity how afterwards the tumultuous '60s continue to shake up the lives of the eight people who congregate at Ken Talley's farm in Missouri.

Ken is a Vietnam vet who lost both legs in the war. He lives with his elderly Aunt Sally and his homosexual lover, Jed the horticulturist. Ken's sister, June, a disgruntled former



Cathie Breidenbach

SDS activist, and her illegitimate 14-year-old daughter, Shirley, are visiting when old college pals, John and Gwen, come for the Fourth of July weekend.

Former flower children protesters, John and Gwen have turned to copper capitalism and Nashville music making. Wes, a spaced-out guitarist from Gwen's band, trails along in their wake and joins the gathering of family and old friends. "Peace" may have been their cry in the '60s, but 15 years later it eludes these unlikely characters.

JOE BAILEY plays Ken as an earnest fellow, perhaps too earnest to hone the barbed edge of irony that should sharpen his lines and propel the pace of dialogue. Amy Kildow as

his sister, June, keeps the same expression of barely repressed ire throughout the play, and ire without consciousness of its irony dulls the wit in Wilson's lines.

Thankfully, when the pace begins to lag in the Oakland University production, Kathy Spry as Gwen and Lisa Jesswein as Aunt Sally fire it up again with their delightful characterization.

As the expansive, filthy mouthed Gwen, Spry comes on like firecrackers on the Fourth to spark every scene she plays.

Whether gussied up in silver and red to go to a "funeral," wrapped naked in a sheet or decked out as a country singer in boots and petticoats, Gwen's costumes help her steal scenes. Costume designer Susan Barrett expertly dresses all the characters in clothes that illuminate character, but Gwen is her showpiece.

Even Jesswein's obvious wit that looks like a cap of gray fringe can't

dull the brilliance of her portrayal of Aunt Sally, the brightest star in a constellation of funny characters.

Sally totes her dead husband's ashes around in a heart-shaped candy box and on hot days sticks him in the refrigerator as a respite from the heat. Then the dotty old lady forgets where she put her dear departed hubby.

Jesswein plays Sally with an unerring sense of comic timing and with a Southern accent and wonderful twangy voice that could win a hog-calling contest.

RICH CARVER as Wes, the drugie guitarist, masters the art of syn-copated talking. He's always half a beat behind quicker wits as his brain, pickled in marijuana, struggles to comprehend. His delayed timing magnifies the humor in his lines. Tracy Wade, as 14-year-old Shirley, Nick Bean as John and Jerry Rathgeb as Jed round out the able cast.

The play's long Broadway run attests to Wilson's genius at melding outrageous absurdity to deep meaning, and the Oakland University production strikes a fine balance between hilarity and seriousness.

Cathie Breidenbach of West Bloomfield teaches college writing classes and works as a freelance writer.



'Plaza Suite'

David Butler and Lisa Bernhardt appear in a scene from the St. Dunstan's Guild of Cranbrook production of Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite." The comedy will be presented at 8 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays, Feb. 10-11, 17-18 and 24-25, at the playhouse in Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$7; \$6 for students. For more information, call 844-0527.

On the Town

DINING & ENTERTAINMENT

Twice a week is better

Renaissance

• Limousine Service

- 4 Hours \$99
- Formal Limousine
- 5 Hours \$149

Stretch Limousine with complimentary Champagne

New Superstretch

Seats 8-10

\$59 per hour
3 hour minimum
272-1900

SUNDAY BRUNCH

In the New Tivoli Restaurant

Clarion Hotel Farmington Hills
12 Mile & Orchard Lake
553-0000

ATTENTION SENIORS (55 & Up)

20% OFF DINNER at the all new Tivoli Restaurant
5 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Sunday thru Thursday

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

MEETING/BANQUET SPACE AVAILABLE

SHOWCASE CINEMAS

CALL THEATRE FOR SHOW TIMES

BARBAIN MATINEE DAILY: \$1.00
FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW ONLY
PORTING OUT ONLY
CONTINUOUS SHOWS SAT. & SUNDAY
LATE SHOWS FRIDAY & SATURDAY
TUESDAY BARBAIN DAY \$2.50 ALL SHOWS

PONTIAC 1-2-3-4-5
2400 SO. TELEGRAPH RD. 352-0241

STARTS FRIDAY (P) MER ALBI	RAIN MAN (R)
BEACHES (P) TWINS (R)	
THE ACCIDENTAL TOURIST (R)	

PONTIAC 6-7-8-9-10
2405 SO. TELEGRAPH RD. 354-6777

STARTS FRIDAY (P) NAKED GUN	WORKING GIRL
PHYSICAL EVIDENCE (R)	THREE FUGITIVES
MISSISSIPPI BURNING (R)	

SUMMIT PLACE 682-9544
N. TELEGRAPH & ELIZABETH LAKE RD.
BARBAIN MATINEE \$2.50 WED. PM. SAT. SUN.
FIRST AFTERNOON SHOW ONLY
CONTINUOUS SHOWS SAT. SUN. & HOLIDAYS
TUESDAY BARBAIN DAY \$2.50 ALL SHOWS

SEEKING WHOT HURRY CRYSTAL (P) DUTY HONOR (R)

West Cinema's (P) OLIVER & COMPANY (R) DEEP STAR (R) SIX (R)

Buddy's PIZZA

1/2 Pound Burgers... and the #1 rated Pizza in town

PLAN YOUR PARTY WITH US
Packages available for any size party

Call ahead and we'll have it ready!

LIVONIA FARMINGTON
14601 Plymouth Rd. 354-0000 (corner of Middlebelt)
261-3550 855-6600
Other Buddy Locations: CARRY OUT ONLY

WATERFORD ROYAL OAK
4770 Highland Rd. (SR 192) 354-0000 (corner of Plymouth Lake Rd.) (just south of I-300)
683-3636 349-8000

Bring this ad in for...

\$2 Off
Any Large Pizza or Large Antipasto or Large Greek Salad

VALENTINE'S WEEKEND

Suite Heart Nights \$79.*

- Two room luxury suite accommodations
- Specialty selected dinner served in suite, by candlelight
- Violin serenade in room during dinner
- Sweets and chilled champagne

Kingsley Inn

1475 N. Woodward • Bloomfield Hills • 644-1400

*per person, per night, based on double occupancy. Valid Feb. 10-11, 1989. Sales tax and gratuity not included.

RAMADA HOTEL SOUTHFIELD

28225 TELEGRAPH RD. • (313) 355-2929

"February 1989 is the Month for Lovers" at the Ramada Hotel Southfield Every Friday and Saturday for you get:

\$89

- A Room
- Snuf & Tux for Two
- Bottle of Champagne
- Entertainment in the Quest
- Midnight Swim & Sauna
- Continental Breakfast in Bed

For Reservations Call: 355-2929

Valentine with us!

2 Memorable Packages!
Saturday, Feb. 11
Sunday, Feb. 12

Enchanted Evening \$45.00

per couple plus tax & gratuities

- Dinner for 2
- Split of Champagne
- Piano Entertainment
- 2 After-Dinner Drinks at Hurley's

Romantic Rendezvous \$129.00

per couple plus taxes

- Includes Enchanted Evening (above)
- Luxurious Room
- Valentine's Chocolates
- Sunday Brunch for 2

CALL NOW FOR RESERVATIONS 879-2100

It's a great day at the NORTHFIELD HILTON

In Windsor, The Place To Get Great Seafood Is Boston.

BOSTON SEA PARTY

FINE DINING

Our Fresh Seafood is Flown in Daily

- Specializing in Imported Wines
- Proper Attire Required

Call for Reservations 519-977-7688

300 Ouellette Ave., Windsor, Canada
1 Block North of the Tunnel

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11:30 a.m.-10 p.m. • Fri. 11:30 a.m.-Midnight
Sat. 5 p.m.-Midnight • Sun. 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Comedy & Karaoke

presents

DOWNTOWN TONY BROWN

Also appearing HANK MACCALLY & TIM LILLY

FRI., FEB. 3rd & SAT., FEB. 4th
SHOWTIMES 8:30 & 10:45

\$2.00 OFF COVER
FRI. ONLY • WITH THIS AD

541 E. Larned
(1 Blk. N. of Ron Cen)
961-2581

WHY WAIT TO CELEBRATE?

Marhus PASTRY • SHOPS

will be featuring

"PACZKI"

(POON-shkee)

February 1 - February 7

Adams Square 633 S. Adams 644-1031
West Maple 160 West Maple 644-1018
Bloomfield Plaza Telegraph at Maple 628-4203

Observe Shrove Tuesday! (Paczki Day) FEBRUARY 7th